

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the amendments made to the claims and for the remarks made herein.

Claims 1-11 are pending. Claims 1 and 5 are independent claims.

Claims 1-5, 9 and 10 stand rejected.

Claims 6-8 and 11 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 9 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome their rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph.

Claims 5 and 7-11 have been amended. Claims 1-4 and 6 have been cancelled.

With regard to the rejection of claims 9 and 10, both of which depend from claim 5, Applicant thanks the Examiner for his observation and suggested amendment, and has amended claim 9 accordingly.

With regard to the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6-8 and 11, applicant has amended claim 5 to include the subject matter recited in claim 6. Accordingly, claim 5, as amended, is believed to be in a form consistent with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Each of the remaining claims 7 -11 depends from claim 5 and, hence, each claim is also believed to be in allowable form by virtue of its dependency upon an allowable base claim.

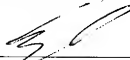
With regard to the amendments to claims 7-11, applicant has reviewed each of these claims and has amended these claims to place them in a form consistent with current US Patent Office practice. No new matter has been added.

With regard to the cancellation of claims 1-4, applicant submits that these claims have been cancelled, without prejudice, solely to expedite the prosecution of the instant application and applicant makes no statement regarding the patentability of these claims. Applicant expressly reserves the right to re-prosecute these claims in one or more continuation applications during the pendency of the instant application.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 20, 2008

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